

To Correspondents.—No communications published unless accompanied by the real name of the writer.

**P. GRAY MEEK,** Editor.  
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**OFF ON A VACATION.**

**Robert Willard, of Bellefonte, Writes from a Rest Camp at the Foot of the Alps.**

The spirit of the American soldier in France is well illustrated in the following letters from Robert Willard, son of Mr. and Mrs. D. I. Willard, of Bellefonte, who with four others spent ten days in a rest camp at the foot of the Alps where they had all the comforts any one could desire, but when their time expired were entirely satisfied to return to active duty in the front line in order to afford other soldiers an opportunity to go back for a rest. It was that spirit of chivalry that helped to bring the Hun to his early downfall.

At a Rest Camp in France, October 25th, 1918.

You have no doubt been wondering why I have not written lately. In my letter of October 14th I told you we were out of the front lines, and I thought we were out for a rest, but the next day we were called up and the company has been there ever since. On the 22nd orders came for five men from the company to go on leave and fortunately I was one. We arrived here yesterday about noon-time, and this is sure some place. We are staying at a hotel, all expenses paid by Uncle Sam. Can you imagine it? Pete Saylor and I are in one room together with two beds, and they are some beds! Real ones; and when we get in we sink down in them about a foot. Some contrast to sleeping with all our clothes on in a little hole in the ground; ha! ha! They picked the men who had done the best soldiering on the line, so it is quite an honor to be one of the first five out of a company to go. It has proven a wonderful trip, and one I will never forget. I cannot begin to tell you everything in a letter, so will just narrate a little of it.

There is a big Y. M. C. A. here with all the amusements one can think of, and anything in the line of sweets that any man might want. We will be here seven days and I am afraid it will be hard to go back to the old life. And, say! I can get ice cream here. Yesterday I had three dishes and could have eaten more but I have to make my money last. A dish costs us two francs (35 cents). It is the first ice cream I have had since leaving the States.

In my next letter I will tell you more about what we are doing here. I will now go over to the Y. M. C. A. and mail this and perhaps send the balance of the morning there.

Aix-les-Bains, France, Oct. 27. I have just returned from the church service held in the Y. M. C. A. so will write a letter. This is a beautiful day and a beautiful place. As you probably know, Aix-les-Bains is one of the largest summer resorts in France. It is where well-to-do Americans spent their vacations before the war. A good many of the French populace here speak English, and we can make ourselves understandable to them. I am certainly having a fine time and I wish it could last longer. However, we are certainly grateful for the little time we will have here.

You will notice by the map that this place is near the border of Switzerland and Italy, and we can see the Alps from here. I will get some pictures tomorrow to send you.

Last night I met an old Bellefonte Academy pal of mine, Willard Holt. We went down to the Y. M. C. A. and had three dishes of ice cream together and then took in the free movies at the "Y." Whitey Thomas is also here now. I suppose if I were to stay here I would meet lots of fellows I know, as soldiers are continually coming and going.

The hotel where we stay is the Hotel Lafayette, and although it is not as large as some, it is very nice. Tomorrow I think we will take a trip into the Alps and see some of the outside scenery, as we have taken in most of the city. I cannot get over sleeping in a real bed and washing three and four times a day. While at the front we were lucky to get water to drink, at times, let alone wash. To tell the truth, there were fifteen days at one time that I neither washed nor shaved.

It seems great to be walking down stairs, sitting down at a table and having our meals served to us on a plate. There is no one to bother us about getting up in the morning or going to bed at night. We can go and come as we please. Such luxury! I will probably go to a football game this afternoon, then to the movies this evening.

Aix-les-Bains, France, Oct. 31. Well, tomorrow is our last day here so I will write a few lines before we go back. It is hard to tell whether I will get a chance to write very much when I get back. However, if you don't hear from me, don't worry.

Pete Saylor and I took in the Mount Bernard trip the other day and it was great. We went up on a cog railway and the scenery is beautiful all the way up. As we got near the top we entered the frost line and there was frost on the ground about half an



**CHARLES MCCOY JR.**  
 BELLEFONTE

Killed in Action in France on October 3rd. Charles McCoy was a son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles McCoy and was born in Bellefonte thirty years ago. He was sent to Camp Lee June 28, went over in August, wounded and gassed September 7 and killed October 3rd.



**OLEY EMERICK TRESSLER**  
 BELLEFONTE

Died of Disease in France on October 29th. Oley Tressler was born in Spring township and was 25 years old. He was called for service August 8, trained at Camp Wadsworth and was sent over in September. The unit he served with in France is not known.



**SIMON H. LUCAS**  
 RUNVILLE

Died of Influenza in France in October. Simon Lucas was a son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Lucas, of Runville, and was 26 years old. He was called to the service May 28, trained at Camp Meade and in France was a member of Company H, 214th regiment.



**CORP. WILLIAM A. MARSHALL**  
 BENNER TOWNSHIP

Wounded in Action in France Sept. 29th. Corporal William Marshall is a son of Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Marshall, and was born in Benner township 25 years ago. He was sent to Camp Meade Nov. 5, 1917, went across in July and was attached to Co. G, 314th infantry.



**EARL KAUFFMAN**  
 RUNVILLE

Wounded in France Late in September. Private Kauffman is a son of Joseph Kauffman and was born in Mifflin county. He was sent from Centre county to Camp Meade May 28, went across in July and was assigned to Company H, 314th infantry.

inch thick in places, so you can imagine how cold it is up there. Our overcoats felt very comfortable. The frost just gave us an idea of what we will have to contend with this winter. But I guess we can stand it if anyone can. We are willing to stand anything to finish the Germans.

Yesterday we took in the trip to the Gorges, which was also a trip worth our time. I am enclosing a little leaflet to give you an idea of the numerous attractions here for us to take in.

I can't praise the Y. M. C. A. workers enough, as they are doing everything possible to entertain us while we are here. They are not only here but are right up at the front with us, bringing us cakes and chocolate. The girls here are kept busy serving hot chocolate, etc. I cannot find many views of the Y. M. C. A., but there are three, I think, in the book I sent you.

I sure would like to stay here for the duration of the war, but being a line combatant, that is impossible. I have had my little vacation and am ready to go back and give some other good soldier a chance. I will write again when I get back with the company.

**ROBERT.**  
 Claire and Carl Deitrick, of Bellefonte, Write Letters Home.

France, Nov. 5, 1918. Everybody is well and feeling pretty good now since Austria has dropped out of the fight. That makes the third country that has quit since we have been over here. But I guess you know all about it, so I don't need to write it. It will take about eighty minutes to make an airplane flight from here to Berlin, and you can imagine what will happen. The allied aviators will be dropping eggs (bombs) on the German capital and make the people there hunt their dug-outs.

It keeps a man busy here ducking "iron rations" (shells). But we can hear them coming. They sound like a sawmill cutting hickory logs. We Americans call the Germans "Jerrics," "Boche" and "Fritz." The other night we were on guard and so close to the Germans we could hear them talk and dig trenches. In the daytime we get a sight of one every now and then, but not for long. They have certain times when they send over shells, but Uncle Sam sends back about ten to their one, so you can imagine how it sounds.

How is everything in the old town? Rather cold, I imagine. It is not so cold over here yet, but our work will go on just as it did when it was warm. Have they started football yet, and how is the Academy team this year? I suppose the fu has interfered with many of the school sports. Will close now for this time. Good bye.

**CLAIRE.**  
 CARL WILL BE HOME SOON.  
 Camp Dix, Nov. 16.

Here I am at last at Camp Dix, and it is some camp. Seems as if it is only a dream, but it is wonderful. We have big coal heaters, two in a room, and hot and cold water baths. Also a Y. M. C. A.

We had some trip here. Left Camp Colt, Gettysburg, at 7:25 a. m., went to Baltimore, thence north through Philadelphia and landed here at six o'clock p. m. The Red Cross at Baltimore and North Philadelphia gave us apples, cigarettes and books. All the men at Camp Colt were moved here. I am safe to say that I will be home in three weeks. This is a mustering out camp and they started the work this week. There are about 25,000 soldiers here so it will be about three weeks before they reach me. Am satisfied at that. I saw some wonderful things on my trip and am seeing and learning lots of things in my army life.

Coming here we passed through Newark, Del., and I saw the place where I started my army life. I am feeling fine, happy and contented. Give my regards to all my friends.

**CARL.**  
 MARRIAGE LICENSES.

Henry E. Walters and Fannie S. Knoffsinger, Bellefonte.

Thomas B. McClure and Helen B. Grubb, Bellefonte.

Edward W. Brown, Spring Mills, and Lillian M. Lose, Howard.

Francis C. Blazer, Milton, and Anna E. Rush, State College.

—For high class job work come to the "Watchman" office.

**ROBERT GARMAN HEARD FROM. Tells How Germans Despoiled Homes to Get Necessities of War.**

During the past week William M. Garman received three letters from his son, Robert H. Garman, who is a mechanic with the 103rd artillery in service in France, and inasmuch as they were the first letters received since September 5th, it was quite a relief to know that he was in good health and active service. Under date of October 24th he writes as follows:

Somewhere in Belgium, Oct. 24. You will have to excuse this irregularity in writing, although if you were to see where we have been the past two months you would not blame me. We've been literally separated from the civilized world so long I won't know how to act when I get out. To date I have been on nearly every front, and believe me the temperature has been warm at times.

I subscribed to the fourth Liberty loan—four more bonds—as where we are now and have been money is almost useless. We are not near a "Y," but occasionally we come to a place where we can buy chocolate at seven francs per bar, about \$1.35. Am enclosing a card and wish you would send as much chocolate or fudge as you can press into the box.

Somewhere in Belgium, Nov. 7. Just received letter enclosing clipping of John Cunningham's death and also Harry Taylor, and I can hardly realize it. Both seemed in the best of health when I saw them last. I see by the papers that Willard had some trophies on exhibition. If I could get some U. S. postage stamps I could send you some real trophies.

Was around last night calling on some Belgian folks and learned quite a number of interesting things. In various places the Huns removed the rubber cushions from billiard and pool tables in order to get the rubber. The houses are all stripped of even such small things as escutcheons and everything in the shape of brass and copper. I was shown several vases and copper kettles which had been melted in the cellar but too late to carry away.

When the Boches were here the populace were under very strict rule. Men were not allowed to smoke on the streets owing to the extreme scarcity of tobacco in the German army. One woman told me that all she owned in the world was what she had on her back. The Huns had even taken her surplus clothing.

The merchants up here in Belgium would put John D. Rockefeller in the poor house. Oh, boy! Chocolate bars 4½ and 5 francs per, equal to 90 cents and \$1.00. Three very thin cookies, about 2½ inches in diameter, one franc, (a franc is 20 cents U. S. money) and prices still going up. Barber work is just the reverse. For a shave the price is 20 centimes, (4 cents) hair cut about 6 cents and a bath 4 cents. Eggs are quoted at 6 francs a dozen and butter 8 francs per pound. They might about as well throw a gatling gun in one's face and demand our whole roll.

It is pleasant (?) to promenade in these cities at the front in the night time. A man may be walking along in the dark all unsuspecting when he is suddenly brought up with his face against a wall, a house, or some other obstruction. A person dare not show even the light of a cigarette lest the Hun kicks the tail-gate out of his bombing plane right down on your head. I hope you never have to experience the air raids we have been in. We all would much rather face the shells.

I suppose by the time you receive this you will have heard of the casualties that occurred among the boys from Bellefonte. I remember the night it happened in the Argonne forest.

Will close now with love and best wishes.

**ROBERT.**  
 Bellefonte Boys Meet in France.

France, Oct. 30, 1918. Last Sunday I heard there were some fellows here from my old division now belonging to the artillery so thought I would look them up. I found one of our Bellefonte boys in the person of Calvin Rice, looking just as fine as the big fiddle in Christy Smith's orchestra. "Mike" certainly was as surprised to see me as I was to see him. Now if Mike has the gift of narration he certainly will be able

to put up a good story for future historians.

Although modesty forbids a man in the army from telling of the part he played I understand from others that Mike figured in several very thrilling episodes, aside from the one of laying the wire out in the open while the Germans' big Berthas were playing a tattoo all around him. So far Mike has been lucky, in fact very lucky.

From him I received the bad news of the killing of Charles Doll and Edward Brooks and the wounding of Case Weakland, Victor Dawson, Frank Crissman and Paul Eberhart, although he believes that all the wounded will come around all right. Mike said that the health of all the other members of old Troop L was of the best. I am in first-class health and hope everybody at home is the same.

**CHARLES E. GATES.**  
 KILLED IN ACTION.

George W. Gill, of Julian, Loses Life in France.

Included in the casualty lists announced last week was the name of George W. Gill, as killed in action in France, on October 28th. The young man, who was called into service on April 29th, 1918, and trained at Camp Lee, was attached to a supply company and was driving an ammunition truck when hit and killed by a shell.

He was a son of George W. and Susan Tibbens Gill and was born at Martha on April 4th, 1887, hence was 31 years, 6 months and 24 days old. His boyhood days were spent near where he was born and when he grew to manhood he worked at various places. At one time he was employed by William Burnside, at his sand bank at Scotia, but when called into the service he was employed at the paper mill in Tyrone. A day or two before he left for Camp Meade he invested all his savings in Liberty bonds and also declared his intention of taking the limit of war risk insurance.

On January 19th, 1909, he was united in marriage to Miss Cora Ghener, a daughter of W. H. Ghener, of Benore, who died October 12th, 1912, leaving two children, Lewis and Thelma. He is also survived by his father, who is a veteran of the Civil war, three brothers and two sisters.

**LIEUT. HENRY KELLER HOME.**  
 Lieut. Henry Keller, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Keller, arrived in Bellefonte on Sunday morning from Washington, and was greeted at the depot by quite a crowd of friends. The lieutenant limps a little from the wound he received in the right leg at the battle of the Marne and walks with a cane, otherwise he is in splendid health and looks fine. One of his missions home was to assist in the big war savings stamps drive and he started in by making a speech at Milesburg on Sunday evening. During the week he has talked at a number of places in the county and tomorrow evening he will attend a meeting at Pine Grove Mills. Sunday morning he will speak in the Reformed church and on Monday he will leave for Washington, D. C. Being a soldier in the service of Uncle Sam he does not know what he may be ordered to do in the future.

**CORP. JOHN SPANGLER GASSED.**

Corp. John B. Spangler, Company B, First battalion, 165th infantry, 42nd division, A. E. F., was severely gassed in the battle of October 10th, when the 165th infantry (old fighting 69th of New York city) stormed Hill 288 and captured it.

Corp. Spangler has been in the 42nd division since that division sailed for France early in November, 1917. This division holds the record for the longest and most continued fighting of any division in the A. E. F. The 42nd went into active service early in February, 1918, in the Lorraine sector, and participated in all the big American drives and battles up until the signing of the armistice November 11th, 1918. Private R. A. Spangler, a brother of Corp. John Spangler, is also in the 42nd division, but was fortunate enough to escape injury. The two Spangler boys are former residents of Bellefonte, and are the sons of Mrs. Howard Spangler, of New York city.

**WOUNDED IN FRANCE.**

Miss Annie Kauffman, of Runville, has received word that her brother, Earl Kauffman, had been wounded in action in France, the latter part of September, by being hit in the leg

with a piece of shrapnel. The young man is a son of Joseph Kauffman and left Centre county with a contingent of national army men on May 28th for Camp Meade. After training there five weeks he was sent across and assigned to Company H, 314th infantry. He had been in action in the Argonne sector just six days when he was wounded. A brother of the young soldier is in training at Camp Lee.

**FREDERICK REYNOLDS PROMOTED.**

During the past week Col. and Mrs. W. Fred Reynolds have received thirteen letters from their son Frederick, the first they have gotten since September 22nd. He has been promoted to a lieutenant and is in the headquarters company of the 112th Trench Mortar battery. For fifteen days and nights he was in the thick of the fighting in the Argonne sector but came through it unscathed and is in good health. His last letter was dated November 6th.

**JACK B. LYON WOUNDED.**

Sunday's casualty list contained the name of Jack B. Lyon, of Bellefonte, as "wounded slightly" in action. The young man is a son of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Lyon, of Bellefonte, and is attached to an ambulance unit. Whether the above announcement refers to a wound he received some time in July or a later one is not known. The wound he received in July kept him in the hospital for some weeks but at last accounts he expected to join his unit.

**ON THE CASUALTY LIST.**

Friends of Lieut. Ned Keller, of Linden Hall, received a notification from the War Department on Tuesday that he had been wounded in action just about the close of the fighting in France.

Among those reported killed in action was Harry J. Williams, of Phillipsburg.

Died from wounds received in action, George H. Miller, State College. Died of disease, Sylvester Patton, Port Matilda.

Wounded in action, Arthur Paul Gill, Bellefonte; Samuel F. Baney, Phillipsburg; Joseph E. Haines, Fleming; Paul Kyler, Julian, and John Steele, Bellefonte.

Robert Taylor, son of R. B. Taylor, was an arrival home on a furlough last Thursday. The young man was among the bunch of Bellefonte High school boys who enlisted in the navy in April, 1917, shortly after war had been declared. He trained at Newport, R. I., and was sent overseas where he has been in service ever since on a mine sweeper operating off the coast of France. Like all the boys who have been in Uncle Sam's service he looks as if the life agreed with him, but was glad of the opportunity to get home, as this is his first trip back to this country since having been sent across.

John Smith, of the U. S. navy stationed at Newport, R. I., came home last Saturday on a furlough to visit his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Christy Smith.

**Sign the Petition.**

Through the Centre county branch of the Pennsylvania Council of National Defense and Committee of Public Safety there have been distributed in all parts of Centre county petitions addressed to the grand jury, the county commissioners and the Court of Centre county praying that the county make immediate and adequate provision for compiling and writing a permanent history of the part which Centre county has taken in the world war.

It is a matter in which all are interested and all should sign the petition that will be presented to county officials.

**All Restrictions on Building Are Off.**

Ed. J. Gehret, director of materials and construction for Centre county, has been advised by the Pennsylvania Council of National Defense that all restrictions in building operations have been removed.

Therefore the public will please take notice that on and after Tuesday, November 22nd last there have been no restrictions in force on construction projects of any kind. It will not be necessary to get permits from Mr. Gehret for any building you may contemplate doing in the future.

**W. S. S. Over the Top Week.**

For the week ending November 16th, 1918, Centre county had a per capita of \$17.17 in the W. S. S. campaign, retaining fifth place in the Eastern district of Pennsylvania.

"This week has been designated as 'Over the Top' week, and if every man, woman and child in the county will purchase war savings stamps to the limit of their ability we will reach our quota of \$876,200.00.

Lieut. Henry Keller Jr., of Co. D, 111 Inf., of the 28th Div., A. E. F., who was wounded in action in the battle of the Marne, August 12th, 1918, arrived in Bellefonte Sunday, the 24th inst., and will during the present week, assist, as far as possible, in making this final drive a complete success.

Let the good people of Centre county show the boys who have made possible this great victory—in securing the liberty of the world—that we fully appreciate what they have done. Let us put into this final W. S. S. drive the same "pep" they put into the drive that won on the western front. Let us win. Let us invest our funds in government securities—the best and safest investment in the world. Let us secure a membership in the limit club of the U. S. by purchasing 200 W. S. S. Help your nearest school teacher and pupils in selling and purchasing 200 or more W. S. S. so that a certificate of service may be secured for your school, thereby showing for many years to come some real patriotic service to your country, and loyal support of "our boys."

Centre county has had a "clean sheet" in every patriotic campaign since the war began. Now let us make a "clean sweep" during the present week in the purchase of W. S. S. It is up to every one of us to do our very best. Let us all get busy and take our county "over the top." Yours for success,

**W. HARRISON WALKER,**  
 Chairman War Savings Committee for Centre County.

**Big Freight Wreck on P. & E.**

A head-on collision between a loaded freight train and a freight engine running light on the P. & E. railroad near Watsonstown at 4:15 o'clock Saturday morning resulted in five deaths and two men injured. The killed were as follows:

Glenn F. Wright, engineer, Williamsport.

D. L. Kinley, conductor, Williamsport.

J. W. Duff, engineer, Sunbury.

H. O. Cox, fireman, Williamsport.

C. L. Miller, brakeman, Williamsport. The injured:

C. H. Radel, brakeman, Sunbury.

J. R. Lemmons, flagman, Sunbury. Six cars of oil on the freight train caught fire and burned up, blocking the road for many hours. The cause of the wreck is still undetermined.

J. W. Duff, the Sunbury engineer who was killed, at one time lived in Bellefonte and worked for L. H. Gettig in his meat market. He left here and went to Sunbury where he got a position as fireman, eventually being promoted to an engineer.

**Baileville Red Cross Auxiliary.**

That the members of, and those interested in, the Baileville auxiliary of the State College Chapter American Red Cross may know the amount of work that has been done and the money contributed the officers have prepared the following report:

Number of members, 116. Articles made and sent to State College from the organization of the auxiliary, June 18, 1917, to November 18, 1918:

17 head bandages, 32 fracture pillows, 88 pajama suits, 2 extra pairs trousers, 40 surgical sponges, 17 floor mops, 356 pillow cases, 151 towels, 15 napkins, 9 tray cloths, 63 large sheets, 4 draw sheets, 70 house gowns, 76 bedside bags, 14 mufflers, 16 pairs wristlets, 62 sweaters, 45 pairs socks, 7 helmets, 1 ambulance robe.

Contributed to linen shower: 5 sheets, 15 hand towels, 8 bath towels, 1 handkerchief.

The auxiliary has raised by socials, gifts and membership dues, \$268.32. The Christmas campaign is now being started and it is earnestly hoped that every man, woman and child in our community will join the Red Cross and thus help to relieve suffering all over the world, which will continue to be great through the coming year.

**Mrs. D. S. PETERSON, Sec'y.**  
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